State grantees plugging away with FirstNet stakeholder meetings, says NTIA

Fierce Mobile Government By Molly Bernhart Walker

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Since being awarded \$116 million in federal grants in 2013, states and territories have been preparing for formal consultations with the First Responder Network Authority, the board tasked with overseeing the development of a nationwide, wireless broadband public safety network.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's state and local implementation grant program, or SLIGP, is leading that effort, helping grantees with outreach to public safety and state and local officials to determine their needs, gaps and priorities for public safety wireless broadband, according to the agency.

"As of September 2014, recipients across the nation have reached more than 48,000 stakeholders," writes SLIGP program director Mike Dame in a Dec. 23, 2014 blog post.

His team has visited state grantees and begun compiling and sharing lessons learned into <u>best</u> <u>practices</u>

"States have developed a variety of approaches to ensure they are reaching the appropriate stakeholders in their state from developing websites and social media pages to distributing newsletters and email updates," writes Dame.

He adds that Florida has hosted eight "listening sessions" to solicit feedback on its network rollout, Massachusetts has held 10 information sessions and lowa grantees have thus far visited 60 of the state's 90 counties for consultations.

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